

JLMC Weekly Data Review

Date/Time: 12/11/20 - noon zoom

Present: John Provost, Lisa, Brett, Meredith, Karen, Taylor

City/Town (Hampshire County)	Case Count	Average Daily Incident Rate per 100,000 (last 14 days)	Relative Change In Case Counts			Percent Positivity Last 14 days	Change in Percent Positivity
Northampton	49	11.99	Higher	42644	4139	53	1.28% Higher
Amherst	103	18.27	Lower	171085	7181	113	1.57% Higher
Easthampton	68	29.99	Higher	25803	2177	71	3.26% Higher
Hadley	13	16.00	Higher	12095	1004	14	1.39% Higher
Hatfield	5	11.04	Higher	3116	318	5	1.57% Higher
Westhampton	<5	4.17	Lower	749	65	1	1.54% Lower
Williamsburg	6	17.43	Higher	3306	360	6	1.67% Higher
Holyoke (Hampden County)	384	67.49	Higher	47829	6294	462	7.34% Higher

Springfield

1723	78.77	Higher	159049	19175	2087	10.88%	Higher
(Hampden County)							

Updates:

- Public Records Request from John Provost any documents created by public employees (except student records and medical records) belong to the public. Any information that is shared between members is also public record. This also includes any emails we share with each other related to this topic. Our own personal notes to jog our memory are private. Two things that seem most relevant are state reports and emails to each other. State reports are already accessible to the public. Check the notes for any personnel or health information and redact that info. Err on the side of under-redacted and then send it to Lisa who will send it to Annie.
- Testing update - started at Smith Voc today and is going well. 90% positive response from Google form so far. Testing will be available for 2 weeks starting at 8:00 AM on Wed 12/15 and 12/22. Follow the tiered schedule of our schools NHS, JFK, and then elementaries on both of those days. Testing will take place in-house because it is too

cold out. Testers will need 3 tables, 6 chairs, power source, wifi, and a trash can to get started. Staff tested will only stay out of school (quarantine) if their test comes back positive. Good for everyone to bring what they need for remote learning home with them on 12/15, just in case. The testing will be available to all school staff, including staff who are not yet in person.

- Return from the holidays update - DDOPH recommended to Mayor today going to a skeleton crew for 14 days after the holiday. It makes sense for us to model this recommendation in the schools as well since schools typically have more community contact than city employees. We could delay the start of school after the holiday break to Jan 11th instead of Jan 4th. That would mean that vulnerable students and any other students who are in person now would also be remote for the week of Jan 4th. Making this move could help keep schools open longer term. This could also alleviate some staff anxiety about the current plan to return to hybrid. Meredith and John will communicate about announcing this planned pause.
- It seems like there was a big spike in cases in school buildings across the state this past week. Any updates on this from DESE? There was a call with the Commissioner this week including vaccines which could be available to teachers in March. Teachers are in the second wave of vaccinations.
- Discussed rolling back the return of 2nd and 3rd graders and it makes less sense than adding an extra week to an already planned vacation. We are already 2 weeks after the Thanksgiving holiday so we have made it through the worst of the Thanksgiving aftermath.
- Update from Public Health - 26 cases in Northampton. 10 are in LTC facilities. State says we have 477 cases from a week ago Sat. 49 case count = 11.99 rate. Tomorrow it will be 16%. We are in the yellow and will again be in the yellow next week. Well over 5k daily statewide. Daily positivity rate is 7.75-7.79% without higher education testing in Northampton as a 7 day average. Hampshire county with higher ed numbers is 2%.
- The pause vote is all or nothing, it is not our role to change the schedule for the roll out of the hybrid learning plan. Increasing numbers in the building is increasing risk. We have been able to contain any individual case.
- Case in NPS last week and one building was notified. This was a different type of case than the previous case.
- Household clusters - is the 0-19 age group quickly creeping up? We're asking DPH(statewide) to include 18-19 year olds in the older age group. There has been a steady increase in that group since Sept and I'm thinking that is mostly college students.
- Cases not reached is now 37% in MA. Northmapton has reached 95% of all contacts. Any cases related to NPS including students contact tracers have reached 100% of all of those cases.

Votes to slow the roll out of hybrid for next week - Brett, Taylor, Karen

Votes no pause - Meredith, Lisa

Vote:

Next meeting: 12/18/20 at noon?

Will we meet on 12/25/20 and 1/121 - will discuss next week

JLMC Weekly Data Review

Date/Time: 12/04/20 - noon conference call

Present: Lisa, Brett, Meredith, Karen, Taylor

City/Town (Hampshire County)	Case Count	Average Daily Incident Rate per 100,000 (last 14 days)	Relative Change In Case Counts				Percent Positivity Last 14 days	Change in Percent Positivity
Northampton	47	11.5	Lower	40317	4535	52	1.15%	Lower
Amherst	144	25.5	Lower	168268	17220	172	1.00%	Higher
Easthampton	43	19.0	Higher	24459	2470	47	1.90%	Higher
Hadley	7	8.6	No Change	11615	1360	8	0.59%	Higher
Hatfield	<5	6.6	Lower	2942	370	3	0.81%	Lower
Westhampton	<5	12.5	Lower	718	76	3	3.95%	Lower
Williamsburg	<5	8.7	Lower	3097	369	3	0.81%	Lower
Holyoke (Hampden County)	287	50.4	Lower	44064	5885	373	6.34%	Higher

Updates from Public Health Director:

- Incident rate and positivity rate both decreased.
- Cases for the last week is what we have looked at each week, but this is getting harder to maintain moving forward.
- 479 cumulative cases in Hamp. We were at 453 as of 11/27. We have 26 new cases.
- Previously only 10% of COVID cases were from long term care facilities - this is down from 42% in October. So 90% of the transmission cases are community cases now.
- We are waiting for test results to come in for one case in NPS.
- We may see a steeper climb this weekend and into the next two weeks due to travel and family gatherings from the holiday.
- Two new contact tracers were highered in Northampton this week.
- Testing is scheduled to start next week with teachers prioritized so we can capture any asymptomatic cases. It is a mobile test site that goes from school to school. We still have to work out logistics for people like central staff. Lisa will get data for how many teachers in each school currently are interested in getting tested. This is PCR testing

and results will be available within 24-48 hours. Brett will create a google form and share with Lisa who will share with the ALT team on Tuesday.

- Updates from DESE and 30 cluster cases - any additional information about these? No, we look at data and set policy from our data where other LBOH haven't always had the support to do that. We have 20 local orders and regulations that have been put in place where other communities may not have those supports. Clusters are happening in schools, but I don't want us to get lost in what is happening elsewhere. How we respond to potential COVID cases is how we will keep our community transmission low.
- Any updates on screening outside each building? Meredith offers that service - it is up to the school to work out implementation.
- Do we know what happened to the additional robo-call we discussed going to families last weekend? It happened! Robocalls will continue with the same messaging during the next break.
- Does the case count include all current cases or just the newly positive cases for that week? I'm wondering about the 287 case count in Holyoke. Would you say that is typical given a percent positivity rate of 6.34%? Yes and the percent positivity rate in Springfield is even higher.
- Link to chart of DESE [data](#)

Vote: No pause - Lisa, Karen, Taylor, Brett, Meredith

Next meeting: 12/11/20 at noon

JLMC Weekly Data Review

Date/Time: 11/27/20 - noon conference call

Present: Lisa, Brett, Meredith, Karen, Taylor

No data published yet

Hampshire county positivity rate now = 1.16%

Hampden county positivity rate is also up from 5% range to 6% range

Good updates shared from Lisa this week

Updates from Public Health Director:

- Anticipating that we are in the yellow again - since last Friday we have had 13 cases not including what came in today. Two at a long term health care facility, four are tied to a business cluster, two more are tied to a Baystate Medical Cluster, five community transmission cases.
- Talked to Amherst on Wed and the bulk of their cases are tied to UMASS.
- Easthampton is also yellow this week too.
- Made recs to superintendent for students returning on Mon - he sent a robocall to families reminding them about quarantine guidelines and travel.

- Talked about health screenings for all students and staff done by DPH instead of the health screening being done at home. School nurses will discuss if this includes temperature checks.
- The questionnaire we use also asks about recent travel AND if anyone in your household is COVID positive. We could capture more information with DPH screens. If students/staff answered yes they would be turned away from entering the building for that day. This would be taken care of by DPH staff not the district nursing staff.
- Is anyone keeping track of attendance rates for staff and students? How many staff are out of the buildings and has it been a problem to cover? At JSS there have been a lot of issues having enough staff to cover. All staff and faculty have to sign in and out to accurately contact trace. Curious if staff who are waiting for test results are also quarantining while they wait?
- Is there something we can learn about what not to do in the cases of COVID transmission between employees in Northampton businesses? In one business the culture is not buying into mitigation strategies, the other is just a nature of the business and everyone is everyone else's close contact.
- Contact tracing is backed up statewide and Western Ma is better compared to the state.
- Testing is backed up and we're back to where we were in April and May when close contacts couldn't get tested. We are thinking of opening up a Stop the Spread test site in Northampton. If we have the funds to do testing I will be very selective for who gets testing and would prioritize NPS faculty and staff and other essential workers. Smith uses Broad Institute and I don't know if they have capacity. UMASS is currently maxed out.
- Concerns about families who traveled in-state and could have been mixing with families over the holiday break. They don't fall under the same quarantine guidelines because it is in-state travel. Suggested something be included in the super's robocall to include students who gathered with family for an indoor meal with non-household family members should continue with remote learning for two weeks. This is a way for us to be mindful of safety in our community.
- Could our next meeting be on Wed after 11:30 (not on an ABAR day). Meredith will look at her schedule and let us know. Maybe 1:00?

Vote: No pause Lisa, Meredith, Karen, Brett, Taylor agrees to no pause with additional call going out to family.

Next meeting: tentatively, Wednesday Dec 2nd at 1:00 PM

JLMC Weekly Data Review

Date/Time: 11/20/20 - noon zoom

Present: Lisa, Brett, Meredith, Karen, Taylor

City/Town (Hampshire County)	Case Count	Average Daily Incident Rate per 100,000 (last 14 days)	Relative Change In Case Counts			Percent Positivity Last 14 days	Change in Percent Positivity
Northampton	45	11.0	Higher	35860	5002	50	1.00% Higher
Amherst	124	22.0	Higher	154178	24967	129	0.52% Higher
Easthampton	41	18.1	Higher	21966	3369	43	1.28% Higher
Hadley	7	8.6	Higher	10307	1470	8	0.54% Higher
Hatfield	18	39.7	Higher	2579	393	19	4.83% Higher
Westhampton	<5	16.7	Higher	613	97	4	4.12% Higher
Williamsburg	<5	8.7	Higher	2728	364	3	0.82% Higher
Holyoke (Hampden County)	304	53.4	Higher	38044	5745	366	6.37% Higher

Updates from Public Health Director:

- Lisa talked to Dr. Johannson and she is seeing more negative results than positive results, mostly 18+, and no school transmission
- Cases in northampton but no cases in schools
 - 410 cases total
 - 35 cases today
 - 8.1 - 11.0 average daily incident rate
 - .77-1.0 positivity rate
 - Currently in the yellow - expect to be here again next week
- Other yellow communities - Amherst, Easthampton, Hatfield, South Hadley
- Green communities - Hadley, Southampton
- Red communities, Holyoke, Chicopee, Springfield
- Hampshire county is doing well state wide - one of four counties still only at risk of an outbreak. Positivity rate is 0.92% including Smith College campus people. Currently there are about 100+ students along with staff and faculty - if residents of Northampton)
- We have 62 towns in the red state-wide - this is with new metrics
- What is the Testing Gov Baker mentioned in his press conference and why wasn't Northampton a part of that program? This is a quick antigen test and only 4 days of data and 180 towns have signed up for it. It is phase one and it is a new test. Our current guidelines require a PCR test and quarantine for 14 days still. DPH discussed this plan and had concerns because it is an antigen test, not PCR - higher false negative and false positive test, not supposed to be used for asymptomatic testing at this point, and

would have to be administered by staff which could be either a nurse or staff. Even without this pilot our guidelines and protocol are the same. It is not under the scope of our school nurses to be diagnosticians so we were worried about liability and reliability.

- On the website when you see the MA map you see the light blue positivity rate for our area with a range of 3%-13%. What is the scary percent? Is it 5%? That has been used since the beginning of COVID. The most tests we do include higher education testing results as well. Five percent would give me pause.
- NAP is seeing more negative results than positive results. How does this compare with the testing rate from Cooley Dickenson? What percent of our student population is a patient at NAP? About 90% and greater than 85%.
- The 0-19 age category is still a high bar statewide - that is surprising if we are not seeing many positive cases in kids. Would the bar graph change if the category were 19+?
- Are there any positive cases in our schools right now? No I know that is the case for in-person students. Is that still true for any positive students who are learning remotely? I don't think so, but I can't say definitively. It is helpful to know because some students still come into school for testing, Ryan Road students have an outside event on Fridays, contact through siblings, etc. We contact trace and ask all of those questions. Hampshire county superintendents have agreed to suspend all winter athletics which is a smart move.
- Does it concern you that 26% of contact tracing has no contact? Now the CTC is contact tracing in 4-5 days instead of 24-48 hours. We interview more contractors to have our own CTC here with multiple communities. Because the CTC can't take them we realize we need more support and will be hiring 1-2 more contract contact investigators just for Northampton 20-40 hours. We also have increased wait times to get a test. Even with these lag times we are never relying on these systems to trigger our investigations.
- It is true that COVID is a risk and we are on track for increasing transmission over the coming weeks. Schools have still only had isolated cases that can be contained.
- Any staff that test positive should be alerting their school nurse
- Considerations for holiday breaks - ideal scenario was to start school as soon as we can so we could break between Thanksgiving and winter break. Our messaging from DPH is to not do family gatherings - go virtual. We know that despite that messaging people will gather and it will increase our transmission. Potentially the week of Dec 17 could see the highest spikes. The safest option could be to start the hybrid transition in January. This is the responsibility of the school committee.
- Updates for NPS the week of 11/30 - Facts sheet developed by Meredith with reminders of previously shared protocols for caregivers and staff.

Vote: No pause - Karen, Lisa, Meredith, Taylor, Brett

Next meeting: Friday, Nov 27th at noon

City/Town (Hampshire County)	Case Count	Average Daily Incident Rate per 100,000 (last 14 days)	Relative Change In Case Counts			Percent Positivity Last 14 days	Change in Percent Positivity
Northampton	33	8.1	Higher	33343	4659	36	0.77%
Amherst	81	14.4	Higher	141587	24917	84	0.34%
Easthampton	31	13.7	Higher	20273	3140	33	1.05%
Hadley	<5	2.5	Higher	9577	1376	3	0.22%
Hatfield	<5	4.4	Higher	2360	328	2	0.61%
Westhampton	0	0	No Change	557	76	0	0%
Williamsburg	0	0	No Change	2525	357	0	0%
Holyoke (Hampden County)	258	45.3	Higher	34887	4906	298	6.07%

Date/Time: 11/13/20 - noon zoom

Present: Karen, Taylor, Brett, Lisa, Meredith

City/Town (Hampshire County)	Case Count	Average Daily Incident Rate per 100,000 (last 14 days)	Relative Change In Case Counts			Percent Positivity Last 14 days	Change in Percent Positivity
Northampton	33	8.1	Higher	33343	4659	36	0.77%
Amherst	81	14.4	Higher	141587	24917	84	0.34%
Easthampton	31	13.7	Higher	20273	3140	33	1.05%
Hadley	<5	2.5	Higher	9577	1376	3	0.22%
Hatfield	<5	4.4	Higher	2360	328	2	0.61%
Westhampton	0	0	No Change	557	76	0	0%
Williamsburg	0	0	No Change	2525	357	0	0%

Holyoke (Hampden County)	258		45.3	Higher	34887	4906	298		6.07%	Higher
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Updates from Public Health Director:

- Community map no longer being published
- Still in the green zone - different meaning than previous weeks
- DPH set new metrics, still color coded, now grey is 10 or fewer cases, green is 10 or fewer/1000,000, now yellow means 10 or more cases/100,000 or positive test rate of more than 5%, red is 10+ cases and test rate of greater than 5%. These metrics are more aligned with CDC, WHO, and doesn't disproportionately impact small towns, and to promote opening and staying open for schools.
- In Northampton - we have had 23 cases since last week - positivity rate is .77%. 7 of the 23 are linked to a rest home with no possibility of community transmission. Many other cases linked to businesses, 30% are households.
- Dealing with a contact at Leeds School, two weeks ago a case at Smith which is contained, currently also dealing with a case at Cutchins.
- Why was Leeds closed for a presumed case? XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXit could be 5 days before we have test results, so we wanted to err on the side of caution and minimize risk of transmission in schools. The best interest of the school community is to err on the side of caution. If this contact does not get tested This classroom is closed for 14 days 11/24.
- Questions - Rapid Mobile Testing - when is that triggered. Not quantifying it - if we think there is school transmission happening, that is when we notify the state. School transmission triggers requesting this response.
- Sports teams stop is a result of making connections to youth sports as a result of our investigations, the state said that sport and recreation activities have also resulted in increased investigations across the state, along with our increasing rate in Northampton and across the state.
- Staff Training - are we going to give a refresher now that we are getting closer to the hybrid. Lisa will update some slides and then share with all staff before Nov 30.
- Is there some value in identifying some school staff that could be mask ambassadors to make sure students are wearing masks correctly and they have the right kind of masks. Meredith - I love that idea. Maybe identify both adult and youth - peer to peer. Karen will bring up at our next Wednesday meeting.
- Based on our last 14 days, we would have had 28 cases which would have moved us to yellow. What is the turning point to close schools? Community transmission along with being in the red and for three weeks? A lot of schools will continue to use the old metrics, I'm keeping that old metric in my brain and will include that each week.
- We still have no school transmission.
- 90% we can identify a contact with a positive case. Thirteen cases that are happening as employees of businesses or community cases. These are identifiable clusters.
- Hatfield was grey and went remote - no additional information on those cases

Vote: No pause - Karen, Lisa, Meredith, Taylor, Brett

Next meeting - Fri 11/13/20 at noon

Date/Time: 11/6/20 - 3:35-3:50 conference call (data not yet released by the state)

City/Town (Hampshire County)	Case Count	Average Daily Incident Rate per 100,000 (last 14 days)	Relative Change In Case Counts		Percent Positivity Last 14 days	Change in Percent Positivity
Northampton						
Amherst						
Easthampton						
Hadley						
Hatfield						
Westhampton						
Williamsburg						
Holyoke (Hampden County)						

Updates from Public Health Director:

- New metrics this week - we might still be in the yellow or green
- Our case count in Hamp last 14 days is 13 positives - a lot are tied to identifiable clusters so there are less unknown risks contributed to community transmission - 50%-60% of cases are connected to clusters.
- Everything else is status quo.
- New map is based on population and is broken down into 3 groups and now there is a positivity rate too.
- Last week, there were over 50 red communities, this new metric is now maybe 18-19 communities in the red, maybe this aligns more with other states.
- MA is more conservative than other states. Total Case Count is cumulative. This week it is 353.
- There are 6 positive cases there we don't know where they got COVID so it could be linked to community transmission.
- Contact tracing goes back 48 hours.
- XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX total 3 cases cumulatively. It can take a few days from a positive result in a lab and then connecting to the school. If an index case got a

positive result on Thurs and then a sibling had a neg result on Thurs, when does the 14 day close contact start? Contact tracing goes back two days before symptoms or two days before positive tests. A negative test will still result in a 14 day quarantine.

- Public Health Dept connects investigations to school

Vote: No pause - Meredith , Karen, Taylor, Brett, and Lisa

Next meeting - Fri 11/13/20 at noon

Date/Time: 10/29/20 - Conference Call

City/Town (Hampshire County)	Case Count	Average Daily Incident Rate per 100,000 (last 14 days)	Relative Change In Case Counts					Percent Positivity Last 14 days	Change in Percent Positivity
Northampton	336	6	1.5	No Change	28580	4120	7	0.17%	No Change
Amherst	277	16	2.8	Lower	117470	24116	20	0.08%	No Change
Easthampton	157	17	7.5	Higher	17086	2954	20	0.68%	Higher
Hadley	53	<5	2.5	No Change	8211	1325	2	0.15%	No Change
Hatfield	22	0	0	Lower	2033	289	1	0.35%	Lower
Westhampton	10	0	0	No Change	479	70	0	0%	No Change
Williamsburg	17	0	0	No Change	2188	284	0	0%	No Change
Holyoke (Hampden County)	1319	103	17.9	Higher	29812	3781	121	3.20%	Higher

10/29/20:Updates from Public Health Director: Karen-yes, Laura-yes, Kate- yes, Merridith- yes
Vote: unanimous for no pause

Comparison Data from the previous week

10/23/20

City/Town (Hampshire County)	Case Count	Average Daily Incidents Rate per	Relative Change In Case Counts		Percent Positiv ity Last 14 days	Change in Percent Positivity
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		100,000 (last 14 days)					
Northampton	6	1.5	Higher	26475	4223	6	0.14% No Change
Amherst	27	4.8	Lower	104961	24821	31	0.12% Lower
Easthampton	15	6.6	Higher	15621	2951	15	0.51% Higher
Hadley	<5	2.5	Higher	7455	1349	2	0.15% No Change
Hatfield	<5	2.2	No Change	1871	300	2	0.67% Higher
South Hadley?	5	2.0	Higher	12374	2088	5	0.24% No Change
Westhampton	0	0	No Change	440	58	0	0% No Change
Williamsburg	0	0	No Change	2037	301	0	0% No Change
Holyoke (Hampden County)	73	12.7	Lower	27652	3446	86	2.50% Lower